

Dear Commissioners:

An article earlier this week in USA TODAY said the FCC was considering "an aggressive plan that would speed the transition to digital TV" that would force consumers who don't have cable or satellite service to buy new gear by December 2004."

We do not have cable or satellite service so I went to the local Best Buy to find out what we would need to be able to continue to watch TV when the change is made. First, they didn't have what I needed in stock, but that they could get one. Then, they said it would cost at least \$350. Wow, none of our sets ever cost that much! They said the programming would be the same as what we get now, but it would be clearer. That's not worth \$350--the picture is pretty good now and better than what our neighbors get with cable. They also said they could sell me a new digital TV set for \$1,500 or more, but I would still need to buy the \$350 "box." Let's see, now I'm up to at least \$1,800 for what I now get on our current TV sets.

We now have 7 TV sets. Most are used very infrequently, but one receives most usage. The one in the living room is about 30 years old and works great. It probably gets used two hours a week at the most and should last a lot longer. There is one in the kitchen that gets used about 30 minutes a day when I do the dishes. Another in the garage is used only a couple of times a month at the most--it is not color and only cost \$20 new. It should last for many years. Our largest and nicest set is in a family room. We got it when my mother-in-law died. It is used infrequently and should last for years. Now I am told that the government wants us to add a box to each of them which would be \$2,400 with the boxes at \$350 each. The article says consumers would have to "shell out more than \$100 for a digital-to-analog" converter box." I sure couldn't buy one for \$100, but even if I could that would be \$700! The sales person said the box might not work on all of the TVs anyway.

I will be retiring in June and income will be limited. Why should we have to pay \$700 to watch TV like we do now? We won't have \$700 (and certainly not \$2,450) to waste on being able to watch TV. And what about all the people who couldn't begin to afford one of these boxes? And what about all of the TV sets that will become obsolete and end up in landfills or dumped along the road? What a waste.

Please don't do this to us. If you do, please send 7 of these boxes so that we can continue to watch TV like we do today.